

Memorandum

To: EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EAC Meeting: December 8, 2023

From: STATE AGENCIES' EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

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Prepared By: Carolyn Craft Abrams
Race and Equity Program Manager
California Department of Transportation

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Subject: Results from the 2023 End-of-Year EAC Survey

Summary:

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) is a priority for the California Transportation Commission (Commission), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). The Committee is intended to elevate diverse and historically marginalized voices to advise our agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, especially as related to transportation planning and programming.

The Committee is concluding its inaugural year, which offers an opportunity to celebrate the Committee's contributions in 2023 and identify priorities for engaging the Committee in 2024. To gather feedback from the Committee to inform the 2024 workplan, a survey was conducted in November 2023. Members were asked to reflect on their involvement over the past year and share their expectations for future work.

Carolyn Craft Abrams, Race and Equity Program Manager for Caltrans and C. Sequoia Erasmus, Associate Deputy Director of Equity and Engagement for the Commission will share the results of the 2023 End-of-Year EAC Survey.

Background:

2023 End-of-Year Survey

In November 2023, interagency staff developed a 2023 End-of-Year EAC Survey. The survey provided members an opportunity to reflect on their involvement with the Committee in 2023 and assess their priorities for 2024.

The survey consisted of 17 questions, including both retrospective and prospective topics for consideration. Questions were designed to assess the Committee scope of work, track and evaluate their engagement activities, reflect on knowledge gained, and set expectations for Committee meeting format and participation. The results of the survey will help interagency

staff better understand what worked well and areas where growth is necessary to support the Committee's desired goals.

In 2022, the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA approved the Committee scope of work, which states that the Committee is anticipated to review, advise, and make recommendations on transportation related plans, programs, and policies that include, but are not limited to:

- State transportation planning guidelines
- State transportation funding program guidelines
- State transportation plans
- Quantitative and qualitative metrics for evaluating equity benefits and outcomes
- Incorporation of meaningful community engagement practices into transportation plans, projects, and policies
- Assessment of equitable outcomes in projects
- Assistance with future and existing Racial Equity Action Plans
- Development of recommendations regarding best practices to elevate equity in project planning and delivery
- Development of a public participation guidebook

The 2023 End-of-Year EAC Survey asked members to revisit the Committee scope and rank their priorities for 2024 as "high priority," "moderate priority," or "low priority," and to add any priorities that were not listed in the Committee scope that should be focused on next year.

To inform the type of engagement opportunities offered in 2024, members were asked to track their participation in these activities and subsequently rate how impactful they perceived the engagement opportunities to be. The interagency team defined 'impactful' as any of the following: the level of influence members believed the activity had on any of the transportation agencies; whether the activity moved the needle on equity outcomes; or whether the engagement was meaningful and authentic. Engagement opportunities included the following:

- Committee workgroups (e.g., agenda development, charter development, Caltrans Equity Index)
- Funding application review (e.g., Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Pilot Program, Senate Bill 1 Funding Programs, Federal Transit Administration 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program)
- Program guidelines development and updates (e.g., Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program, State Transportation Improvement Program)
- Public workshops hosted by the Commission, Caltrans, or CalSTA (e.g., Application Workshop for Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Pilot Program, CalSTA Strategic Plan Engagement Session)
- Staff briefings on various topics (e.g., transit funding, Senate Bill 671 Clean Freight Corridor Assessment)

If members did not participate in these engagement opportunities, they were asked to share why. Members were also provided a space to add activities the Committee should engage with in 2024.

Committee members were invited to reflect on the knowledge and information they've gained from their participation on the Committee, especially as it relates to transportation planning, programming, or funding. Members were asked to provide insight into what information was most valuable, and what areas should be given more focus in 2024.

Finally, the survey provided an opportunity for members to look ahead to 2024 and identify their travel needs for future meetings, areas of improvement for the Committee structure, and to add any final comments or suggestions.

Interagency staff will present the survey results and analysis during the meeting. The survey results will inform the discussion of Committee priorities for 2024.